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strong hydrochloric acid to ten parts of water. And here it may be added that in case the bleaching does not readily commence upon immersion in the bleaching solution, the action may be hastened by a previous dipping in the dilute hydrochloric acid. In the bleaching solution a crust of calcic carbonate, formed by the union of the calcic hydrate of the solution and the carbonic dioxide of the air, is deposited on the wings, and this calcic carbonate the final wash in dilute acid will remove. As soon as the calcic carbonate has disappeared, and all bubbling, consequent upon its decomposition by the hydrochloric acid, has ceased, the wings should be well soaked in pure water. They may then be secured on cards with a mucilage of gum tragacanth; or upon glass by the proper transfers, through alcohol and chloroform, to Canada balsam.

A solution of sodic hypochlorite, known as *Eau de Labarraque* or a solution of potassic hypochlorite, known as *Eau de Javelle*, when used in place of the solution of bleaching powder does not leave a deposit of calcic carbonate on the wings and thus dispense with the wash of dilute acid. A solution of zinc hypochlorite acts more delicately than a solution of sodic hypochlorite, and may be used in place of the latter, as may also solutions of aluminic hypochlorite, or magnesic hypochlorite.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— The recent meeting of the Society of Naturalists, held at Boston, December 29 and 30, will long be remembered with pleasure by those who had the good fortune to be present. The excellent plan of the founders of the society of limiting the range of the papers to the discussion of methods of teaching and research, leaves but small foothold for bores, and, indeed, the series of papers furnished an exhilarating succession of suggestive and easily grasped ideas. Most of the sessions were held in the physiological lecture-room of the new Harvard Medical School building and just adjoining the laboratory of Dr. Bowditch, which is probably unparalleled for its wealth of ingenious and effective apparatus, designed and made on the spot. The courtesies of the Harvard members of the society very agreeably occupied the hours not strictly devoted to business.

— Professor T. J. Burrill deals, in the *Botanical Gazette*, p. 334, with two mechanical effects of cold upon trees—the radial splitting of wood and bark, and the separation of bark or wood layers in a concentric way.

The first is explained by water freezing in plates parallel to the surface of an organ, and then, additions being made to the base, crystals perpendicular to the surface will be formed. Thus the wood contracting, and the ice expanding tangentially and longitudinally (chiefly the former), radial bursting is the result. The south side of a tree is the weakest, as more water exists there, and ice is first formed. Direct observation shows that the specific gravity of sap is greater on the north side of a tree.

Concentric splitting is explained by minute ice-crystals forming with their axes perpendicular to the wood-cylinder, thus causing radial tension. Want of ripeness of tissue, in the sense of the relation of water to other constituents, is the chief predisposing cause.

— Henry W. Beyerinck has, in the *Botanische Zeitung*, examined the structure of the remarkable galls produced on the internodes of the stem of *Poa nemoralis* by the attacks of *Cecidomyia poæ*. While, under normal conditions, grasses are able to produce roots only from the nodes, these galls are clothed with a thick matting of roots produced from the pericambial layer of the internodes. When first found these roots differ in no respect from ordinary underground roots, being provided with a root-cap, and a central vascular cylinder with a few pitted vessels, but with no root-hairs. In the course of development they assume more and more the character of aerial roots, and lose their root-cap.

— Count G. de Saporta enters into an elaborate reply, in the Bulletin of the Geological Society of France (XIII, p. 179), to the theory of Nathorst that the supposed organic remains of a very early geological period are in reality the petrified impressions of the footprints of animals. He maintains that a minute examination of their structure entirely contradicts this view, and that even those about which Nathorst expresses the greatest doubt may be petrifactions of algæ in half-relief.

— Dr. F. W. Goding announces for early publication Lives of eminent economic entomologists of North America, a work to consist of about 150 parts, with plates. Price, $2.00, $2.50 and $3.00. Subscriptions to be sent to the author at Ancona, Livingston county, Illinois.

— Mr. E. T. Cresson, of Philadelphia, the well-known hymenopterist, after a long interval of forced cessation from scientific work, has returned to the study of the Hymenoptera, and is preparing a synopsis of the whole order which he intends shortly to publish.

— Dr. P. R. Uher has prepared a catalogue of the Hemiptera Heteroptera of North America. It is published by the Brooklyn Entomological Society, and can be had at the price of 50 cents of Mr. John B. Smith, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

— Professor C. E. Hamlin, assistant in charge of the Mollusca of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge, died January 3d. He formerly held the chair of natural history at Waterville College, Maine.

— N. Joly, a well-known French zoölogist, died October 17, at Toulouse.

— Mr. S. H. Scudder has retired from the editorial management of *Science*, which is now edited by Mr. N. D. C. Hodges.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Society of Naturalists Eastern U. S., Dec. 29–30.—This active society numbers 130 working naturalists and geologists, and was organized for the discussion of methods of investigation and instruction, laboratory technique and museum administration, and other topics of interest to investigators and teachers of natural science. Membership is restricted to those who have done original work. The meeting was held at Boston, and was certainly not inferior in interest to those previously held.

The society chose as officers for the following year: President, G. K. Gilbert, of Washington; vice-presidents, Professor E. D. Cope and Dr. Harrison Allen, of Philadelphia, and Professor George L. Goodale, of Cambridge; secretary, S. F. Clarke, of Williams College; treasurer, Charles A. Ashburner, of Philadelphia; executive committee, Professor R. Ramsay Wright, of Toronto, Dr. C. S. Minot, of Boston.

Gilbert, G. K. Opening address.
Morse, E. S. On museum cases.
Bowditch, H. P. Demonstration of vaso-motor experiments.
Bowditch, H. P. Exhibition of model of the eye.
Wilder, B. G. On the use of alinjected sheep hearts in class practicums.
Wilder, B. G. Illustrations of the advantages of alinjection, vascular and visceral, in preserving material for dissection for class practicums and for permanent preparations.
Dwight, Thomas. Modern anatomical methods.
Mixter, S. J. Exhibition of injections.
Ernst, H. C. Cultivation of micro-organisms.
Davis, W. M. Methods of observing thunderstorms and discussing the results.
Warren, J. W. Demonstration of reaction time apparatus.
Warren, J. W. A simplified demonstration of the reaction of saliva.
Wright, R. R. Improvement on rocking microtome.
Wright, R. R. Photography as an aid to natural history illustration.
Gage, S. H. Dunnington's method of making colored diagrams, with modifications.
Wilder, B. G. Exhibition of preparations illustrating certain branch and class characters.
Oliver, Chas. A. Apparatus for the investigation of the color sense.
Comstock, J. H. A new method of arranging entomological collections.
Allen, Harrison. Exhibition of photographs in illustration of animal locomotion.
Wadsworth, M. E. Laboratory instruction in mineralogy.
Kingsley, J. S. Some photographic processes of illustration.
Hyatt, A. Museology.
Crosby, W. O. Arrangement of mineralogical collections of B. S. N. H.